

OFFICE OF THE CLERK  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

Richard W. Wiking  
Clerk

450 Golden Gate Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
415.522.2000

June 18<sup>th</sup>, 2007

Eastern District of California  
4-200 Robert T. Matsui  
501 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-7300

Re: MDL 05-1699 In re Bextra and Celebrex Marketing, Sales Practices and Products Liability Litigation

Title of Case(s)

Bertha Townsend, et al. v. Merck & Co., Inc. et al.

Your Case Number(s)

C.A.No. 2:06-2780

Dear Clerk:

Enclosed is a certified copy of the order from the Judicial panel on Multidistrict Litigation transferring the above entitled action to the Northern District of California, San Francisco Division. The case has been assigned to the Honorable Phyllis J. Hamilton for coordinated or consolidated pretrial processing pursuant to 28 USC §1407.

Please forward the **original record and a certified copy of the docket entries** in the case listed above along with the enclosed copy of this transmittal letter to:

United States District Court  
Northern District of California  
450 Golden Gate Avenue, P.O. Box 36060  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
Attn: Rufino Santos

If the case is an electronic case filing please do one of the following: 1) e-mail the PDF documents, as separate PDF files, including a PDF copy of the docket sheet to SFmdl\_clerk@cand.uscourts.gov, 2) provide us with a temporary log in and a password to directly access your database and to expedite the downloading of the PDF files we need and/or require, or, 3) if you prefer, on a disc. We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely yours,  
Richard W. Wiking, Clerk

/s/  
By: Simone Voltz  
Deputy Clerk

Encl.

**A CERTIFIED TRUE COPY**

JUN 15 2007

ATTEST / *Daniel S. Seawell*  
FOR THE JUDICIAL PANEL ON  
MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATIONJUDICIAL PANEL ON  
MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION

JUN 15 2007

FILED  
CLERK'S OFFICE**DOCKET NOS. 1657 & 1699****BEFORE THE JUDICIAL PANEL ON MULTIDISTRICT LITIGATION*****IN RE VIOXX MARKETING, SALES PRACTICES AND PRODUCTS  
LIABILITY LITIGATION******IN RE BEXTRA AND CELEBREX MARKETING, SALES PRACTICES AND  
PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION******BEFORE WM. TERRELL HODGES, CHAIRMAN, D. LOWELL JENSEN, J.  
FREDERICK MOTZ,\* ROBERT L. MILLER, JR.,\* KATHRYN H. VRATIL,  
DAVID R. HANSEN AND ANTHONY J. SCIRICA, JUDGES OF THE PANEL******ORDER OF TRANSFER WITH SIMULTANEOUS  
SEPARATION, REMAND AND TRANSFER***

Presently before the Panel are motions, pursuant to Rule 7.4, R.P.J.P.M.L., 199 F.R.D. 425, 435-36 (2001), by plaintiffs in fifteen actions listed on Schedule A seeking to vacate the Panel's orders conditionally i) transferring these actions involving the prescription medication Vioxx (manufactured by Merck & Co., Inc. (Merck)) to the Eastern District of Louisiana for inclusion in the Section 1407 proceedings occurring there in MDL-1657; ii) simultaneously separating and remanding claims in these actions relating to prescription medications Bextra and Celebrex (manufactured by Pfizer Inc. (Pfizer)) to their transferor districts; and iii) transferring the resulting Bextra/Celebrex actions to the Northern District of California for inclusion in MDL-1699 pretrial proceedings. Defendants Pfizer, Pharmacia Corp., G.D. Searle LLC and Merck oppose these motions and urge effectuation of the Panel's orders.

On the basis of the papers filed and hearing session held (without oral argument), the Panel finds that these actions involve common questions of fact with i) actions in MDL-1657 previously transferred to the Eastern District of Louisiana, and ii) actions in MDL-1699 similarly centralized in the Northern District of California. The Panel further finds that transfer for inclusion in the coordinated or consolidated pretrial proceedings in those two districts will serve the convenience of the parties and witnesses and promote the just and efficient conduct of the litigation. Transfer is also appropriate for reasons expressed by the Panel in its original orders directing centralization in these two dockets. In MDL-1657, the Panel held that the Eastern District of Louisiana was a proper Section 1407 forum for actions relating to Vioxx. *See In re Vioxx Products Liability Litigation*, 360 F.Supp.2d 1352 (J.P.M.L. 2005). Likewise, the Panel held that the Northern District of California was a proper Section 1407 forum for actions relating to Bextra and/or Celebrex. *See In re Bextra and Celebrex Marketing, Sales Practices*

\_\_\_\_\_ certify that the annexed  
is a true and correct copy  
of the original on file in my office.

/S/TE/ST:

RICHARD W. WIEKING  
Clerk, U.S. District Court  
Northern District of California  
by *Johnie K. G.*  
Date 6/18/07 Deputy Clerk

\* Judges Motz and Miller took no part in the decision of this matter.

- 2 -

*and Products Liability Litigation*, 391 F.Supp.2d 1377 (J.P.M.L. 2005). Pending motions to remand these actions to state court can, in appropriate parts, be presented to and decided by each of the transferee courts. *See, e.g., In re Ivy*, 901 F.2d 7 (2d Cir. 1990); *In re Prudential Insurance Company of America Sales Practices Litigation*, 170 F.Supp.2d 1346, 1347-48 (J.P.M.L. 2001).

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1407, these actions are transferred to the Eastern District of Louisiana and, with the consent of that court, assigned to the Honorable Eldon E. Fallon for inclusion in the coordinated or consolidated pretrial proceedings occurring there in MDL-1657 – *In re Vioxx Marketing, Sales Practices and Products Liability Litigation*. The claims relating to Pfizer's Bextra and Celebrex prescription medications are separated and remanded, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1407(a), to their transferor districts.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1407, the resulting actions involving claims relating to Bextra and Celebrex are transferred to the Northern District of California and, with the consent of that court, assigned to the Honorable Charles R. Breyer for inclusion in the coordinated or consolidated pretrial proceedings occurring there in MDL-1699 – *In re Bextra and Celebrex Marketing, Sales Practices and Products Liability Litigation*.

FOR THE PANEL:

Wm. Terrell Hodges

Wm. Terrell Hodges  
Chairman

## SCHEDULE A

MDL-1657 -- In re Vioxx Marketing, Sales Practices and Products Liability Litigation

MDL-1699 -- In re Bextra and Celebrex Marketing, Sales Practices and Products Liability Litigation

### Northern District of Alabama

*William D. McCluskey, etc. v. Merck & Co., Inc., et al.*, C.A. No. 2:07-232

### Eastern District of California

*Carol Ann Davies, et al. v. Merck & Co., Inc., et al.*, C.A. No. 2:06-2768

*Lois Hornsby, et al. v. Merck & Co., Inc., et al.*, C.A. No. 2:06-2776

*Bertha Townsend, et al. v. Merck & Co., Inc., et al.*, C.A. No. 2:06-2780

*Arthur Bluett, et al. v. Merck & Co., Inc., et al.*, C.A. No. 2:06-2787

*Lisa Mathews, et al. v. Merck & Co., Inc., et al.*, C.A. No. 2:06-2807

*Geneva Styles, et al. v. Merck & Co., Inc., et al.*, C.A. No. 2:06-2812

*Ali Muhilddine, et al. v. Merck & Co., Inc., et al.*, C.A. No. 2:06-2814

*Elizabeth A. Cochran v. Merck & Co., Inc., et al.*, C.A. No. 2:06-2817

*Kevin L. Chaney v. Merck & Co., Inc., et al.*, C.A. No. 2:06-2826

*Wendel Vantine, etc. v. Merck & Co., Inc., et al.*, C.A. No. 2:06-2851

*Barry Dohner, etc. v. Merck & Co., Inc., et al.*, C.A. No. 2:06-2853

*Jerry Strange v. Merck & Co., Inc., et al.*, C.A. No. 2:06-2875

### Southern District of Illinois

*Robert J. Smith, Jr., etc. v. Merck & Co., Inc., et al.*, C.A. No. 3:06-964

*Wilburn Williamson, etc. v. Merck & Co., Inc., et al.*, C.A. No. 3:06-1023